

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT  
PROPRIETOR.  
AMES GORDON BENNETT, JR.,  
MANAGER.  
BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—THE SHAKESPEARE.  
GERMAN THEATRE, 45 and 47 Bowery.—THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—A NOBLE REVEREND; OR, NIGHT AND MORNING IN FLAMES.  
IRVING HALL, Irving place.—MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL'S GRAND FAREWELL CONCERTS IN CONCERT.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street and Fourth avenue.—MR. F. SCHUBERT'S LECTURE AND CONCERT.  
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 206 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 72 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC TONNETS. MRS. MORGAN'S LECTURE.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at Mechanic Hall, 206 Broadway.—A VARIETY OF LIGHTS AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENTS.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—EUROPEAN MINSTRELS, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—SHADOW PANTOMIME.

BROOKLYN ATHLETIC.—PROFESSOR HART'S MIRACLES. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

THE BUNYAN TABLEAU, Union Hall, corner of Twenty-third street and Broadway.—THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 218 Broadway.—HEAD AND SHOULDERS OF THE EUROPEAN ENTERTAINERS. SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COCK.—THE FLYING SCUDS.

THE NEW YORK HERALD is now located in the new HERALD Building, corner of Broadway and Ann street.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers will please bear in mind that in order to have their advertisements properly classified they should be sent in before half-past eight o'clock in the evening.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, April 30.

Lord Stanley, Foreign Secretary of England, announced in the House of Commons that France and Prussia had accepted a proposition for peace, and expressed his opinion that the Luxembourg difficulty would be settled in a satisfactory manner.

King William opened the session of the Prussian Diet with a speech from the throne. He was completely silent on the subject of Luxembourg, a fact which produced some uneasiness when reported in Paris.

France is disarming. An imperial order directs the cessation of the military preparations throughout the empire.

The King of Prussia told the Parliament that the unity of Germany "was an assurance of the peace of Europe."

Belgium is augmenting her military establishment and about to raise a money loan.

Consols closed at 91 1/4, for money, in London. United States five-twenties were at 71 1/4 in London, 76 1/4 in Frankfurt and 80 in Paris. French rentes were at 87 1/2, 80 centimes.

The Liverpool cotton market was easier and not so firm, with middling upland at 11 1/4. Breadstuffs firm. Provisions quiet.

By mail we have very interesting details of our cable despatches to the evening of the 15th of April.

King William of Prussia adjourned the session of the North German Parliament with a speech from the throne, which we publish. The scene in the Chamber was quite animating, and the King was received with loud cheers as the "protector of the German Bund."

His Majesty lauded the labors of the members for the making of the new constitution and the consolidation of Germany.

During the negotiations for a solution of the Luxembourg question by peaceful means, and anterior to the acceptance of the Congress, it was asserted that Prussia, "in her necessity to become a maritime power," had determined to absorb by some means the entire kingdom of Holland to Germany. Frenchmen from the provinces had, it was alleged, memorialized Napoleon for war.

The St. Petersburg Journals of the 17th of April inclined against the Prussian position on the Luxembourg question.

The high treason indictments charged against the Fenians on trial in Ireland appear in our columns, with a list of the names of the prominent persons from America who are not to be used in behalf of the British Crown. It will be seen that political acts done in the United States by American citizens were made portions of the counts by the Attorney General when framing the indictment.

THE CITY.

The Board of Aldermen met in special session yesterday. A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to employ legal aid in bringing to a decision before the Supreme Court the controversy between the municipal authorities and the Police Commissioners relative to the granting of licenses, was adopted. A resolution calling for an extension of Fifth avenue to the Battery was referred to a special committee.

The Inspector of Excise was busy all day yesterday issuing new licenses, those of 1866 being withdrawn. The sum total received for licenses during Monday and Tuesday amounted to \$140,000.

The Street Cleaning Commissioners met yesterday and instructed the street contractor to clean all the streets, whether paved or not, by the end of the week.

The court at police headquarters is doing a heavy business, as the associated Police Justices still refuse to interfere with Justice Connelly's cases.

During last week there were four hundred and five deaths in New York city and the public institutions and one hundred and five in Brooklyn. The percentage in both cities, according to Dr. Harris, continues to show the deleterious effects of the present tenement house system. The presence of cholera is not reported in any of the large cities of Europe, and we may reasonably expect that the commercial towns in the Mississippi valley will be the only sources whence the pestilence can reach us this year.

A lecture was delivered last evening at the Twenty-fifth street Baptist church on "Burmah and the Burmese," by Mount Kiam, a native of that country.

The jury in the Gardner-Tyler will case, tried before Judge Lot, in the Circuit Court of Richmond county, Staten Island, came into court on Monday night last and returned a verdict on all the issues submitted in favor of David Gardner, the contestant. A motion for a new trial will be argued at the General Term, the motion being made on the ground that the verdict was against the evidence.

The General Term of the Supreme Court convened yesterday morning for the purpose of announcing decisions and the names of successful candidates for admission to practice at the bar. A number of orders were promulgated regulating the future transaction of business in this branch of this court. A motion was also made for the admission to practice of Robert McLean, late United States Minister to China.

The stock market was strong yesterday. Gold closed at 125 1/2.

Domestic produce was generally firmer and more active, while imported merchandise was in a depressed condition.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The details of the news from Mexico received in Havana by the Spanish steamer Puerto Rico, from Vera Cruz April 16, add nothing to what has been already given except a few contradictory reports about the capture of Puebla and the presence of foreigners among the liberals. It was, however, asserted on pretty good authority that active operations against Vera Cruz were somewhat slackened after a conference that was held between General Garcia (liberal) and the American Consul, E. Sallier, accompanied by Don Miguel Carran, a leading citizen of the beleaguered city. The result of this talk in hostilities was a general emigration of all who were desirous of leaving the country. Such seemed to be the main desire of the sympathizers with the empire to be allowed peaceably to depart, since their lives could not be guaranteed in any other event. Señor Degollado and young Irujo were among the number that lately arrived in Havana.

By advices to the 8th instant from Caracas, Venezuela, we learn that the committee of the Venezuelan Congress to whom was referred the matter of dragging up a new tariff had been aided in their labors by leading business men there, and that the bill they expect to report will reduce the export dues to about one-half. The news from the different States of the republic was satisfactory. Encouraging reports of the success of gold miners in Guayana were published; it appears that numbers of the successful prospectors were from New Orleans.

By way of Havana we have reports from the other West India Islands, but the news has been anticipated in all its main points by our regular files at this port. At Porto Rico an American company, which was about establishing a regular steam line in communication with St. Johns, was to commence running its steamers shortly, having secured three good boats. Machinery for boring for oil in Barbados had arrived at Georgetown, Trinidad. The laborers were working cheerfully throughout the island, and the weather admitted of no delay.

Reports from British Honduras, of a later date received in Jamaica, speak of fresh disturbances having occurred there. The Governor of Jamaica had in consequence given orders to Colonel Hunt, the militia aid; Mr. Archer, deputy commandant general; Lieutenant Hopkins and Ensign Crookenden, to proceed immediately to Rastan. But it is not stated whether any additional English troops were to be sent.

Despatches from the seat of war on the plains report that Horsehoe station had been surrounded by Indians, and fighting was going on. A telegraph supply train was attacked near Laramie on the 21st, and the stock was driven off. Work on the telegraph line is consequently suspended until an escort can be furnished the workmen.

Senator Wilson spoke in Raleigh, N. C., on Monday and again yesterday. He was followed by a colored man who proposes to represent the Raleigh district in Congress, and who said that he did not wish to get any closer socially with the whites. The audiences were composed almost entirely of blacks, the white people generally being polite but indifferent.

The war of the races in Richmond on the street car question has been temporarily adjusted. The railroad companies will throw open their cars to whites and blacks alike to-day, with the exception of two or three, which will be used exclusively by ladies and children, the directors reserving the right to say who are ladies. Conductors are required to see that those who enter the cars are at least cleanly in their attire. It is considered probable that the employees will resign their posts in consequence of this arrangement, as many of them are sons of war-reduced first families; and the outside whites generally declare that they will walk before they will ride with "niggers."

The inauguration ceremonies of the Governor elect of Connecticut occur in Hartford to-day. As this is the first democratic installed in that State for some time a grand display is expected, and the military of the State will turn out.

Some one has offered Mr. Peabody the Presidency of the United States, but he has declined, saying that he was seventy-two years old his chief desire was to preserve his health.

Perdition is being circulated in Texas praying the general government to divide the State in two parts, one to be called the "Western State of Texas." The reason alleged is the loyalty of the population of the proposed new State and the preponderance of secessionists in the other.

Mr. Jeff Davis returned to Fortress Monroe on Sunday from Washington, where she had been conversing with prominent Southerners on the prospect of her husband's release. Mr. Davis himself is in excellent health, and expresses himself confident of an early liberation from his long confinement.

An extensive paper mill at Rockland, Del., was destroyed by fire on Monday, involving a loss of \$300,000. The establishment supplied several New York weeklies with their material.

Fifty cent stamps are being extensively counterfeited and "shored" in Philadelphia. The engraving is well executed, but the notes are one-eighth of an inch narrower than the genuine.

Heavy distillery frauds have been discovered in Richmond, Va., and several prominent distillers have found their business closed, among them General Henningsen, of Nicaragua notoriety.

A Virginia recently lobbied an important bill through his State Legislature by telling humorous stories to the members.

A keg of powder exploded near Fort Lee yesterday, blowing a man named McCallie fifty feet into the air and "landing" him in the river. He swam ashore and is now recovering.

George Goetz, Alexander Angus and Samuel Case, the latter a mere boy, were hanged in Cincinnati yesterday for the murder of James Hughes in February last. The condemned men exhibited the most extraordinary bravado on the scaffold, the boy Case indulging in such strange antics as to necessitate his being summarily compelled to cease by the officers in attendance. The execution took place inside the jail yard and the crowd outside was very great.

Stephen Calhoun Smith, formerly one of Hampton's rebel legion, was sent to Castle Pinckney, in Charleston harbor, by General Sickles yesterday, for mutilating the American flag, at the recent parade of the firemen.

President Johnson's Position.

A Washington correspondent assures us upon the authority of a United States Senator that President Johnson is by no means committed to the policy of obeying the Supreme Court, should that little body of political fossils issue an injunction against the execution of the reconstruction laws of Congress. On the contrary, the President, we are advised, will apply the Jacksonian and Jeffersonian doctrines of limitation to the court, if necessary, and pay no more attention to the injunction indicated, if called upon to meet it, than to an injunction from Tammany Hall. This is certainly the only course of wisdom and safety for Mr. Johnson; but still he has so repeatedly pursued the course best calculated to damage himself, cripple the South, and strengthen the radicals, that we shall not be surprised with another experiment of the same kind. The ordinary processes of reasoning fail in such cases, and we can only await the actual test and the result.

The Impeachment Committee.

The House Committee empowered to investigate any probable ground for the impeachment of the President will meet in Washington early this month, and conclude its labors so as to be able to report definitely for or against the proposed measure upon the assembling of Congress in July. It is probable that the committee will wisely decide to throw overboard all the rubbish accumulated by Mr. Ashley's committee, and, therefore, that the question will be contingent on things yet to happen—on the course, namely, of the President in the execution of the Reconstruction law. In short, threatened impeachment has become simply a sword of Damocles, and if the President is found furthering any new obstructionist policy it will fall; otherwise, not.

The Approaching Presidential Contest—Mr. Seward's Retirement.

Mr. Seward has returned to Washington and the cares of State from his semi-annual visit to his quiet home at Auburn. Heretofore this pilgrimage has been marked as a public event, in a speech on the political situation, and in a reading of the political horoscope to his neighbors by the learned Secretary. On this occasion there has been no speech, no demand for one, and no disappointment anywhere from the omission, because "the Governor" has ceased to speak as one having authority. He has fallen from grace as a party leader and has lost his prestige as a prophet. He reads in "the Book of Chronicles" that his political career is ended, and he bows to the decree of fate. Thus, ceasing to be a candidate for the Presidency, he has no more speeches to make on political affairs, no more party favors to ask nor frowns to fear, no pipe to lay, no instructions to give, nothing, in short, to do but to put his house in order for the evening of his days.

We learn that Mr. Seward has decided to retire from public life as soon as the Southern States are represented in Congress, or, at the latest, with the present administration. He wisely considers the Presidential succession a foregone conclusion, so far as he is concerned, and, therefore, he withdraws, after quietly dismissing all his followers, even to his faithful Sancho and his lamenting good man Friday.

He has no further use for them, and so, like Adam and Eve, they have "all the world before them where to choose." But what an instructive example of disappointed ambition is here! Like Clay, Calhoun, Webster and others, Mr. Seward has devoted himself through many years of hopes deferred to that one grand object of aspiring politicians, the White House. Clay, with all his honors and all his achievements, died a disappointed man as a twice defeated candidate before the people for the Presidency. Calhoun, soured by the terrible consequences of the wrath of Old Hickory, finished his career in plots and movements looking to a Southern confederacy; and Webster, like Douglas, after serving the Southern wing of his party in the cause of slavery, never recovered from the shock of Southern ingratitude, as made manifest in the nomination of General Scott. Indeed, there would seem to be no limit to the revenge of a man cheated out of what he claims as his right to the White House. Thus Van Buren, who claimed a second term, became as spiteful in being tricked out of it as was Calhoun in being superseded by Van Buren as the anointed heir to the succession; and thus Tyler and Fillmore, in their ambition to get a term under their own account, became as unmanageable as Calhoun or Van Buren. To poor Pierce the White House was so much clear gain, and so, even for one term, he justly thought he had cause to be not only astonished but thankful. As for Buchanan, after thirty years of intrigues with and humiliations before the Southern slave oligarchy for the honors and powers of the Presidency, we dare say that his four Presidential years of fear and trembling under the rule of Jeff Davis, Cobb, Floyd, Thompson, Gwin, Mason and Sillidell, have made it infinitely worse for him than it would have been had he been rejected like Calhoun, or defeated like Case.

Mr. Seward, therefore, in failing to reach the Presidency, may console himself with the reflection that, though his record as a disappointed aspirant is not so grand and glorious as that of Clay, it is (Russian America) not so barren of substantial fruits as that of Calhoun or Webster. Nay, more; he ought to be grateful, in escaping the responsibilities of Buchanan, he has escaped his humiliation and disgrace—to say nothing of Andrew Johnson. Philosophy is a good thing under irreparable losses of any kind, and Mr. Seward is not only a philosopher but an optimist. Alexander Pope had it that "whatever is, is right;" but our happy-minded Secretary has it that "whatever is, though it may be wrong, is the best." Leaving him in the full enjoyment of this dogma, we are called to inquire what becomes of the Seward faction of New York with his retirement from the political field. There is nothing remaining of this faction to damage even a town election. It has nearly all melted away and disappeared. What is left of it, like the silver gray clique of the old whig party, and the Brooks detachment of the old know nothing party, will probably be absorbed in the omnium gatherum of the forlorn demagogues.

With the retirement of Mr. Seward the fierce animosities and faction fights that have followed the dissolution of the firm of Seward, Wood and Greeley ought to end. The chief organizer of the republican party is pretty much in the condition of the chief organizer of the Irish republic—he has (barring Russian America) nothing but his disappointments, his mistakes and his failures to leave to his disciples. There need not, then, be any trouble touching the succession to the prophetic mantle. Mr. Weed may take it and sport it in the halls of the Manhattan Club; or Mr. Raymond may hold it aloft, like the trowers of Mahomet, among the satchels of Tammany, and it will do no harm. As the Israelites wandered about forty years in the wilderness before they were permitted to enter the Promised Land, so the New Yorkers have for forty years, more or less, been travelling behind the banner of Seward, the file and drum of Thurlow Weed and the ghost of Morgan. Let us rejoice that, with Mr. Seward's retirement from the camp, we shall have a fair field and a new departure for the Presidential succession.

Too Eager by Half.

The view which the St. Petersburg press takes of the value of Mr. Seward's recent purchase from the Russian government is certainly not very flattering to our Yankeeuteness. It says that the colony was of no sort of use to Russia; that in the event of hostilities with either England or the United States it would be impossible to retain it, and, in fact, that the Russians would have been gainers if they had got rid of it for nothing. Our government, it is added, was so anxious to purchase that it would have been ungracious for Russia not to give it the preference. While our ideas of the value of the territory do not altogether coincide with those of the St. Petersburg journals, we agree with them that we might have made a better bargain for it. Mr. Seward may be an excellent judge of town lots in Auburn, but he evidently has but an imperfect acquaintance with the value of real estate within the frigid zone. What we might have got almost for asking he has given a fancy price for. Next time he goes into the market on account of the gov-

ernment we trust he will ask the advice of a competent land agent. It is not a pleasant thing for a people who regard themselves as smart to be overreached and then laughed at.

The Latest Phase of the Luxembourg Question.

From telegrams which we print in to-day's HERALD it is somewhat difficult to understand whether all the nations named in yesterday's cable news as parties to the London conference have actually agreed to take part in the same. King William, we are told in one despatch, has been silent on the subject of Luxembourg, and the fact has created uneasiness in Paris; while in another it is reported that Lord Stanley, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had stated in the British House of Commons that the proposition for a Peace Congress had been accepted by both France and Prussia, and he gave it as his opinion that the Luxembourg affair would be satisfactorily settled. The telegraphic wires, with all their excellences, are not above playing us little tricks now and again. The messages they convey are sometimes so strangely contradictory that the conviction is irresistible that the burden of their news is not always more than mere rumor. Yesterday we were distinctly told when the conference was to meet, who were to participate therein, and that certain preliminaries had been agreed upon as a basis for deliberation. It was not possible to doubt that all the parties named, of whom Prussia, of course, was one, had signified their willingness that the conference should be held, their willingness to take part in the same, and their assent to the terms prescribed. Until, therefore, we have more positive news to the contrary, we must still be allowed to retain our conviction that the cloud which threatened war has been dispersed and that there is for this European complication the prospect of an amicable settlement. We certainly have not much faith that when the conference is held the representatives will confine their attention solely to Luxembourg; for that is only one part of the difficulty. Other and relative questions must be considered, else permanent peace is impossible. So far as we can see no good would result from war to either of the principal parties involved. We judge, therefore, that there is but small likelihood of the negotiations, already commenced and having peace for their object, being rashly broken up. War, if it should happen, can do no injury to the United States; but in the interests of the populations concerned, there being no great question at stake, we wish for peace.

Republican Institutions in Turkey.

We have Scriptural authority for holding it to be hazardous to put new wine in old bottles; the old bottles are apt to burst. When, therefore, we are told that Turkey is beginning to import the modern ideas of Western Europe, and even those of America; that a recently appointed envoy to the United States, Edouard Blaquiere, is about to leave Constantinople for Washington, where he will study whatever analogies may exist between our States, Territories, counties and municipalities, and the Turkish eyalates, sandjaks, casas and nahiyas, with a view, perhaps, of recommending the Sultan to adopt our republican institutions, from town meetings up to Congress; that the Sultan has persevered in retrenching the expenses of his government, to the sore grief of all ladies of the harem and their French milliners and mantua makers; when we learn by our latest mail advices from Constantinople that a coalition has been formed between "Young Turkey" and the high Mussulman clergy; that a constitutional government, equality of races and control of the public power are preached in all mosques, the example being cited of Mahomet and the greatest Caliphs, and that the influence thus brought to bear upon the masses is very great; and when we reflect upon the consequences that must inevitably follow—such as the multiplication of schools beyond any present calculation of the marif naziri, or minister of public instruction; the multiplication of newspapers, of which there are now but a baker's dozen throughout the empire and its tributary provinces, and only four are in the Turkish language; the introduction of steamboats, railways, telegraphs, and all the quickening impulses of western civilization; when we hear and think of all this we cannot help anticipating an early explosion of the pure despotism or absolute monarchy which reigns in Turkey. Abdul Aziz may be a more efficient ruler than that voluptuous and effeminate opium eater, Abdul Medjid, his predecessor. He is said to be himself inclined to favor the reforms which young and wealthy Osmanlis, educated at Paris, seem eager to introduce into their native country, at the instigation of Mustapha Fazil Pacha, the enlightened brother of the Viceroy of Egypt, who is looked upon as the leader of Young Turkey. But if the Sultan adopts all the newly proposed reforms a radical change will be wrought in Turkish government and Turkish society, and the leavening influence of institutions essentially republican will begin to work. Abdul Aziz will have destroyed the peculiar distinctive forces of the Ottoman empire as effectually as Mahmoud II. slaughtered the Janizaries. The new wine will burst the old bottles.

Our Public Schools.

As such a vigorous attempt was made during the past winter to entirely remodel the public school system of this city, and as the propagators of the proposed change were so eloquent in the exposure of the dreadful abuses, it is upon the whole rather pleasant to hear that the system is not altogether villainous and evil. This is the verdict that comes from Boston. A school committee of that city having visited the schools of the larger cities in the Union, with a view to observation for the improvement of the Boston schools, has returned home and given a report highly calculated to satisfy us with our condition in the important matter of public education. They say:—"Under the administration of the system as carried out by the Board of Education a degree of order, precision and energy of action has been attained which has carried, and, if persevered in, must continue to carry forward the great work of popular education in the city of New York, with a steady and strong progress, both in the broadness of its diffusion and the excellence of its character." As the Boston committee is not seeking political preferment here, we would rather accept its estimate of our schools than the very different one of the discontented jobbers who were last winter so very eager for a new system.

What the Constitution of 1846 has Done for the City and State.

The State constitution of 1821, framed by the convention over which Daniel D. Tompkins presided, was based upon sound principles, and until the Commonwealth in its rapid progress outgrew its proportions it gave the people an efficient, honest and economical government. But a quarter of a century made a great difference in the commercial and political status of New York, and it was felt and acknowledged that we needed a larger garment for the free use of our limbs. The people desired a change in the fundamental law of the State, and the Convention of Revision of 1846 was held. It was controlled by politicians of narrow views and fell into the grave error of moving in a direction exactly opposite to the right one. The defects then commencing to make themselves felt in the constitution of 1821 arose from an insufficiency of absolute power in the executive head, and the amendments required were such as would more effectually concentrate authority and responsibility. The State officers, such as Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Surveyor General and Commissioner General, were then appointed by the joint ballots of the Senate and Assembly, and, as the Legislature could not always be in perfect accord with the Governor, there was sometimes a want of harmony and unity of purpose between the Executive and the heads of departments subordinate to him, which impaired the efficiency of the State government. The remedy would have been to have transferred the appointment of all those officers to the Governor and Senate; but the county politicians, who controlled the Convention, failed to comprehend these facts and looked for reform in the diffusion of power. The State officers were all made elective, and thus the Governor was left at the head of the State, without authority over his subordinate officers. There was no direct responsibility to the people anywhere. The government was parcelled out, as it were, piecemeal, and each officer made as independent as possible of the other. The judicial system was changed. Under the constitution of 1821 all judicial officers were appointed, and the higher judges held their offices during good behavior until attaining the age of sixty years. The constitution of 1846 made the judges elective by the people, limited their terms of office and threw the courts into the turmoil and corruption of politics.

The experience of twenty years has proved that the constitution of 1846 was a budget of errors and defects from its first clause to its last, and fraught with danger to the State. Under its license we have been going on from bad to worse, year after year, until at length corruption stalks abroad in our Legislature and in all our public bodies unmasked and unblushing, and the whole fabric of government is crumbling away. It was pretended that the Herkimer county politicians—Hoffman, Mann, Loomis and their followers—were very watch dogs of the financial interests of the State; but under the work of their hands our taxes have increased enormously; our State and municipal debts have swelled into vast proportions; fraud and speculation have found unlimited opportunities for their operations upon the public works; the Legislature, although nominally restrained from forming corporations under special acts, have sold out every franchise upon which they could lay their hands; and corruption and anarchy, organized under the constitution, have been marching on until they have reached a point beyond which is the overthrow of all law and order.

The Convention of Revision which is to assemble in a few weeks, must go back to the system of responsible government, if they desire to save the State from serious trouble. The condition of the city of New York at the present moment is but a type of what the State itself will soon become. Here the people are taxed over twenty millions of dollars, and are virtually without any government at all. They have no voice and no will in their own affairs. They elect a Mayor, and the Legislature ties his hands and strips him of all executive power. They elect a Board of Councilmen for one year, and the Legislature extends their term to two years—and might do so to twenty years. The Police Justices are in an open fight with the Police Commissioners. The Common Council find all their municipal powers secretly and suddenly snatched out of their hands and transferred to a Commission, and straightway they repeal nearly all the city ordinances and leave us without any laws at all. One independent department conflicts with another, and each separate body squanders the people's money without any fear of the consequences. There is no responsibility anywhere; no law anywhere; no order anywhere; nothing but arbitrary acts from every quarter.

These evils are all directly traceable to the constitution of 1846. If we would secure any permanent reform, we must entirely change the principles underlying our State polity. We must have governments in the State and in municipalities, armed with all-sufficient power and authority, and held directly responsible to the people. Centralization must take the place of diffusion, so that if we are badly and corruptly governed the people can reach at once the unfaithful public officer and cast him out. These are the points to which members of the approaching Constitutional Convention should direct their thoughts; for the people will expect from them a sweeping and thorough reform.

The Hon. John Morrissey and the English Press.

The complaint of an Irish demagogue that he was one of the best abused men in creation seems likely to be eclipsed by the grievances of the Hon. John Morrissey. He is not merely assailed for the sins he has committed, but for offences of which he is as innocent as a lamb. Every one knows that since he has been in Congress he has demeaned himself like a gentleman. Even Gully, in the British Parliament, did not cut a more respectable figure. But the democratic facts that are recognizable in monarchical England are, it appears, not to be permitted in republican America. Gully might worthily sit in the British House of Commons, but the Hon. John Morrissey ought not to sit in Congress. Hence he has been made a butt for the ridicule and abuse of the English press. But so far as the ridicule goes, he has now the laugh on his side. The London papers caught at the bait of the burlesque speech which was published here as having been delivered by him in Congress, and, taking it seriously, in-

dulged in savage comments on it. If the honorable gentleman were not so accustomed to hard hits he might feel rather sore at them and commence suits for slander against their authors. English jurors have a great respect for muscle, and there is no doubt that he would get swinging damages. Like all professors of the manly art, however, he disdains such means of vindicating himself, and therefore will probably content himself with a hearty laugh at the confusion of his traducers when they discover that they have been made the victims of a practical joke.

The Negro Element Under the Political Reorganization of the South.

The news from the South with regard to the status of the negroes and their ideas and aspirations under the new order of things becomes every day more interesting. "The colored people," one of our special correspondents says, "wherever I have been, seem to be thoroughly organized in the matter of politics. Their preachers, their schoolmasters, the few Northern men living in the cities and towns and very generally the officers and assistants connected with the Freedmen's Bureau, keep them up to the work." It is probable, however, that on the plantations and in those parts remote from the towns, where the negroes are not so subject to these influences, they are less organized and more under the influence of their old masters. Still it seems that wherever the Northern republican influence extends they are disposed to support that party. But they exhibit a good deal of shrewdness and may not be so pliant in the hands of the white politicians. "They consider themselves," our correspondent remarks, "entitled to their share of public and representative positions, and are disposed to forego the claim for the benefit of those who want the offices themselves." From all this we see that the negroes are becoming educated as to their new position. Under the rivalry of politicians and political parties to obtain their votes, and through the labors of the white orators who are spreading themselves over the South, they will learn quickly to value their new-born privileges. They may become confused by the conflicting representations and misrepresentations of those who want to control their votes, and they may not be able to comprehend fully political questions; but they will have no difficulty in understanding that they are on an equality with the whites as regards their rights, and equally entitled to hold office. Such being the case, it is reasonable to expect that they will want some of their own race to represent them in both State and federal offices—in both the legislatures and Congress. This, we say, is only reasonable and the natural result of the extraordinary political and social revolution the country is passing through.

But the problem which excites the greatest interest just now, particularly among politicians, is, what party will be able to get the negro vote. The republicans are moving heaven and earth to secure it. This is the object of the missionary labors of Senator Wilson and other Northern orators. At present they seem to have the best chance. The old democrats are nowhere in the struggle. In fact, they appear to have given it up. We do not hear of a single Northern democrat entering the lists against Wilson and the other republicans. The old Southern democrats are equally apathetic. They appear to have no idea of resuscitating their party in the South. Indeed, one of their leading men, Governor Orr, of South Carolina, advised the colored people, in a speech at Columbia, not to attach themselves either to the democratic or republican party at present, "but to wait and array themselves upon the platform of a national Union party, that could be occupied in common by both races South and the people of the North." A colored speaker who followed, the Rev. Henry M. Turner, said that "he wished, above all things, to see a united South; for he felt satisfied that, notwithstanding the education of the past, the Southern gentleman was the best and truest friend of the negro." From all these signs of the times we conclude that the old democratic party of the South is dead; that though the republican party is making great efforts it will find no lasting elements to sustain it in that section, and that the probability is that a new party, based upon the material interests of the South, will spring up to exercise a powerful influence, in connection with the agricultural West, over the future policy and destiny of the country.

Quarantine—Movement of the Health Authorities.

The health authorities, not unmindful of the fact—according to the almanac—that summer is approaching, although the weather for the past few days has been in no way suggestive of a hot season, have made an aquatic visit on Monday to the neighborhood of West Bank, Coney Island and Barren Island, with a view to look after quarantine matters. Between the roughness of the sea and the afflictions attendant upon it, which seem to have befallen nearly the whole party, there was not much accomplished. The crib at West Bank would not sink, owing to the troubled state of the winds and waters; Barren Island could not be approached for the same reason, and a view of the sandy shores of Coney Island was only obtained through the green and yellow vision of sea sickness. So the health authorities good-naturedly delegated a sub-committee, with strong stomachs, to make an inspection of the two islands at some future and calmer day. One point, however, was arrived at, and that was reached from the information of a weather-beaten and experienced pilot, that Barren Island, which is designed for the accommodation of emigrants not infected with disease, cannot be approached by a vessel at all when the wind blows from three different points, and that passengers would have to be carried in small boats a distance of ten miles from the emigrant ship. From these facts it would appear that the right spot for a quarantine and hospital station has not yet been hit upon, and that after all the artificial island proposed to be formed at West Bank, in the lower bay, will be found to be the only suitable place for the purpose. Coney Island is out of the question. To establish quarantine there would only be to provoke a repetition of the incendiary proceedings on Staten Island a few years ago. West Bank is an isolated spot, far from any mainland, where there are no vested rights to be infringed upon, and little danger of contagion spreading to any populated districts.

By the acquisition of Russian America the United States flag has been advanced to within thirty-six miles of Asia, and the area of the republic increased from 3,981,194 square miles to about 3,990,000.